facilities at the airports. Periodic training is imparted to personnel handling these equipment so as to ensure that the response time prescribed is met during actual emergencies.

Delay in Delhi-Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Air service

5337. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1987 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2000 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flight from Delhi-Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar-Delhi, is getting delayed every day and creating inconvenience to the passengers, if so, whether Government will give necessary instructions for sending Delhi-Bhubaneswar-Vizag flight in time; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Bhubaneswar Airport into International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Out of 173 operations during the period from January, 2000 to March, 2000 on the sector Delhi-Bhubaneswar- Visakhapatnam and return, 97 flights got delayed and 7 cancelled. On this, only 6 delays were due to technical reasons and the remaining were due to airport restrictions and miscellaneous reasons.

(b) No, Sir.

Role of MNCs in managing International Airports

5338. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit MNCs to take over, operate and run major international airports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this step is being taken to bring our international airports upto international standards and develop new airports; and

(c) if so, what is the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as and when suitable through long-term lease. At present, the existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up